

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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University Partners to Establish Human-Environment Research Station

JANUARY 21, 2015

Georgia Southern Signs Memorandum to Begin Research in Ecuador



Mindo Cloudforest Foundation (MCF) President Brian Krohnke shakes hands with Acting Vice President of Research and Economic Development Dr. Don McLemore, as MCF Technical Director Leila Tania Lopez De la Cruz looks on. The University and MCF today signed a memorandum of understanding to officially established Georgia Southern University's first permanent research station in Latin America. The new partnership will provide opportunities for faculty, undergraduates and graduates to conduct innovative and groundbreaking research on sustainable livelihoods and development, transnational connections, reforestation, climate change and more.

[Georgia Southern University](#) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the [Mindo Cloudforest Foundation](#) (MCF) to establish the Human-Environment Research Station (HERS) in Milpe, Ecuador.

Georgia Southern President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., and Georgia Southern professor Rob Yarbrough, Ph.D., joined MCF President Brian Krohnke and Technical Director Leila Tania Lopez De la Cruz to sign the memorandum on Wednesday.

"It's always a good day to see the Eagle Nation spread a little wider," said Keel. "This historic event...truly does allow us to forge a partnership to establish our first permanent research station in Latin America. Students and faculty will be able to experience South American culture and heritage while gaining valuable research experience."

The MCF is an Ecuadorian nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of bird habitat in the Ecuadorian

Andes. It also seeks to promote bird tourism and reforestation. The partnership will provide an opportunity in South America for University faculty, undergraduates and graduates to conduct innovative and groundbreaking research on sustainable livelihoods and development, transnational connections, reforestation, climate change and more.

"This is such an exciting new partnership," said Yarbrough. "This is a tremendous new opportunity for our faculty and students to engage in human-environment research."

Krohnke and Lopez De la Cruz will join University professors to discuss the organization and research opportunities. The Department of Geology and Geography seminar will be held Thursday, Jan. 22, at 4 p.m. in Herty room 2112. The event is open to the public.

"This project is exactly the thing we want to do at Georgia Southern in order to live up to our promise to be student-centered," said Keel. "I challenge you not to let this be the last project, rather I sincerely hope that today marks the first of what I hope will be many such agreements that expand the educational horizons of our students and faculty."

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education.

University's College of Education Ranks Top 75

JANUARY 21, 2015

***U.S. News & World Report* Ranks Best Online Graduate Education Programs**



Georgia Southern University's College of Education (COE) recently ranked No. 68 in *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Online Graduate Education Programs."

U.S. News & World Report has ranked online graduate education schools for four years. The ranking system is based on accreditation, admissions selectivity, academic and career support services and student engagement

among other factors. The report included 252 schools nationwide.

"We're pleased to be in the top 100 tier," said Thomas Koballa, Ph.D., dean for the College of Education. "The College of Education continues its commitment to offer high-quality online graduate programs which provide students with the cutting-edge skills they need to increase their employment options. We have a committed faculty trained to teach distance learners, and students

from across the region and state know they will be engaged in a rigorous graduate program that furthers their career as an educator in many professional settings.”

For more information about Georgia Southern COE graduate programs, visit the Graduate Academic Services Center at <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/gasc/>.

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